

JAN - 3 2001



**UNITED STATES PATENT &
TRADEMARK OFFICE**

UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY AND DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Christopher John Rudy
209 Huron Ave.
Port Huron, MI 48060

MAILED
JAN 3 2001
Office of the Director
Group 3600

Paper No. 18

In re Application of
Richard H. Hall et al
Application No. 09/172,577
Filed: October 13, 1998
Attorney Docket No.: Blanket-358
For: INERT GAS BLANKET FOR
PROTECTION FROM OXIDATION

REQUEST TO RESET
THE PERIOD FOR REPLY
DUE DATE DUE TO
A LATE POSTMARK

This is in response to applicants' request to reset the period for reply based upon a postmark date later than the mail date printed on the USPTO Office action filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on December 8, 2000. The request will be construed as a petition under 37 CFR §1.181.

The petition is **DENIED**.

Such a petition may be granted if the following criteria are met: (A) the petition is filed within 2 weeks of the date of receipt of the USPTO action at the correspondence address, (B) the reply period was for payment of the issue fee, or the reply period set was 1 month or 30 days; and (C) the petition includes (1) evidence showing receipt (e.g., copy of the USPTO action having the date of receipt of the action at the correspondence address stamped thereon, etc.), (2) a copy of the envelope which contained the USPTO action showing the postmark date, and (3) a statement setting forth the date of receipt of the action at the correspondence address and stating that the action was received in the postmarked envelope. See MPEP 710.06.

The petition lacks items (B) and (C)(3). The time period set in the last Office action therefore continues to run 3 months from the mail date of November 21, 2000. The application will be returned to Central Files to await applicants' reply to the Office action.

Inquiries related to this decision may be directed to Special Programs Examiner Randolph A. Reese at (703) 308-2121.



Al Lawrence Smith, Director
Patent Technology Center 3600
(703) 308-1020
Facsimile No.: (703) 306-4597

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